**Title I, Part A - Allowable Expenditures**

I’ve spoken with Jack O’Connor, Montana Assistant Title I Director, about this issue at length. He is very clear that Title I funds are to be used for meeting academic purposes only. The intent and purpose of Title I, Part A funding is:

“Title I, Part A provides supplemental resources to local education agencies to help schools with high concentrations of students from low-income families provide high-quality education which will enable all children to meet the state student performance standards. Title I, Part A supports campuses in implementing either a school-wide program or a targeted assistance program.”

Use of Title I, Part A funds to meet social service needs are not directly addressed in the federal fiscal guidance and as such are not to be used to meet student’s social service needs. Other federal programs are in place to meet social service needs of students and families.

Clothing is addressed for homeless students with comprehensive plans that combine Title I, Part A, Title I, Part D, and McKinney-Vento funds for homeless students. Federal guidance specifically disallows the use of any of these funds to purchase clothing, with the exception of school uniforms that are required to participate in the academic program (funds can be used to purchase school uniforms only for homeless students).

Accepting donations of clothing items and distributing those to students in need is an appropriate alternative.

Food is provided through free and reduced lunch/breakfast programs. However food (such as pizza) can be provided as an incentive to generate attendance at a parent involvement night focused on academic activities.

Transportation can be provided using Title I, Part A funds (such as a single ride bus pass, gas card, or a bus) for participation in before or after-school academic support activities, summer school or extended year programs, and parent/student attendance at academically focused parent involvement activities. At a targeted-assistance school, single ride bus passes or gas card could only be provided for Title I identified students/parents in these activities. The audit trail for use of Title I gas cards needs to be carefully documented to demonstrate actual need and use of the gas card for the intended purpose described above.

Purchase of gas cards, grocery gift cards, and items for small food baskets is acceptable in nominal amounts (i.e. $5-$20) as incentive “give-aways” to entice parent attendance at family fun nights, parent nights, Family First seminars, etc.